PROTECTION

223. The Beggars' Home continued to be housed in III Block of N.R.S. Choultry, Mysore.

224. The receipts and expenditure of the Local Relief Committee, Mysore were Rs. 17,777 and Rs. 11,806 respectively.

(ix) Village Panchayets and Rural Development.

225. The total number of village panchayets in the State during the year was 12,460 (12,468). The decrease is due to the regrouping of village panchayets. The number of meetings held by the village panchayets were 40,085 (37,512).

Demand, collection and balance of Village Panchayet taxes.

226. Including the arrears, the total demand of village panchayet taxes amounted to Rs. 58,21,142 (56,30,278), of which a sum of Rs. 31,31,648 (29,00,329) was collected during the year, leaving a balance of Rs. 26,89,494 (27,29,949).

Financial position of the Village Panchayets.

227. A sum of Rs. 75,15,579 (Rs. 70,05,654) was at the credit of the village panchayets at the beginning of the year. This, with the income for the year of Rs. 47,88,156 (Rs. 48,62,762) amounted to a total of Rs. 1,23,03,735 (Rs. 1,18,88,416), of which a sum of Rs. 41,19,056 (Rs. 43,52,837) was spent during the year leaving a balance of Rs. 81,84,679 (Rs. 75,15,379) at the credit of the village panchayets at the end of the year.

228. A portion of the Land Revenue was assigned to the village panchayets under the Mysore Village Panchayats and District Boards Act 1952 as in the previous year.

Rural Water Supply.

229. Five hundred and thirty three (969) drinking water wells were completed during the year at an outlay of Rs. 7,82,433 (Rs. 7,06,588) and many wells were under various stages of progress.

Public Works.

230. A sum of Rs. 14,00,126 (14,80,275) was spent during the year on the execution of public works.

Audit.

231. The accounts of 825 (820) village panchayets were audited during the year.

Weekly labour.

232. The system of weekly labour was in vogue in 1,669 (637) villages. Ninetyfour (123) village panchayets laid out parks, 226 (35) village panchayets arranged weekly visits of doctors, sixtysix (97) village panchayets were managing village forests. One thousand eight hundred

and fifteen (1,980) village panchayets have libraries or reading rooms functioning. Six hundred and sixtyfive (200) village panchayets have availed themselves of electric power and 752 (588) village panchayets maintained sweeping establishments. Five thousand one hundred and thirtynine village panchayets were contributing to Indian Red Cross Society.

Local Development Works.

233. During the year, 402 (1,411) works under "Local Development Works" were sanctioned for execution by the village panchayets under the scheme sponsored by the Planning Commission, which included construction of roads drains, community halls and drinking water wells. The works remaining at the end of the previous year were also taken up during the year.

National Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Scheme.

234. At the end of the year, another scheme to provide water supply and sanitation was introduced and the works were under progress.

(x) Amelioration of the conditions of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Ex-Criminal Tribes.

235. The Scheduled Castes, Hill Tribes and Ex-Criminals are not only educationally and socially backward, but also economically poor. It is therefore, necessary, that measures are undertaken consistently to improve their conditions to enable them gradually to come up to a stage equal to that of some of the advanced communities. Majority of them have no houses to live in and no lands of their own to maintain themselves by agriculture.

236. They were encouraged by grant of scholarships and other concessions in educational institutions. Economic rehabilitation was mainly effected by grant of arable lands for cultivation. Financial aid was also provided for the purchase of bullocks, agricultural implements, seeds and manure to the agriculturists among the Scheduled Classes.

Housing.

237. A sum of Rs. 11,00,000 was sanctioned for housing and acquisition of sites for the Depressed Classes during the year. Out of that, a sum of Rs. 10,24,513-8-0 was spent during the year. Four thousand five hundred and ninety-seven houses were completed during the year.